GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:187
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2007
PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Electoral Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) issued by the Government in various States as on March, 2007, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware that a large number of EPICs have been found defective;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to issue error free EPICs in the Country; and

(e) the time by which the entire country is likely to be covered fully with EPICs?

Answer

MINISTRY OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a): A Statement showing the number of Elector's Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) issued in various States/Union Territories provided by the Election Commission of India is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (e): The Election Commission of India has intimated that there are no reports of large scale defective EPICs being found. However, there are some isolated cases of issuance of defective EPICs. In case of defective EPIC, if any, steps are taken to correct the defective ones and issue to the elector a new card free of cost as per Election Commission's instructions. It has been the endeavour of the Election Commission to achieve 100% coverage under the EPIC scheme, as far as practicable, in a time bound manner. Even though efforts have been constantly made to cover all the electors under the EPIC scheme, various reasons such as natural calamities, and engagement of administrative machinery to works other than election work, apathy of voters themselves are some of the reasons why progress has been uneven.